



Cover story on page 3.

From the Staff ...

Colonel Eric T. Olson
Superintendent



"Continuous improvement is better than delayed perfection."
— Mark Twain

While Twain certainly is responsible for great literary work and many wise quotes, this is one of my favorites as it is applicable to how a law enforcement agency tasked, constructed, and staffed like ours can build upon a professional reputation of public service. Over the past couple months, I have been asked a number of times about how I envision the way ahead for the Patrol and any priorities I have for positive change. While there are several responses that could be made, I have consistently responded with three areas of focus:

1. Ensuring a high level of public service utilizing currently appropriated resources.
2. Seeking methods of improving workplace safety.
3. Strengthening recruiting and diversity of the agency.

Let me elaborate on each of these areas. The Patrol has a long history of support from the state legislature and the citizens of Missouri. This support is due to the outstanding work performed each day throughout this agency. It is our responsibility to use the Patrol's various funding sources to the greatest extent and benefit to public safety. We must constantly evaluate and measure how we are utilizing these resources to ensure this outcome. In other words, before we ask for new appropriations, we will ensure we are using what we have *appropriately*.

Some ways we do this are to examine our interstate coverage, manage testing hours and control backlogs for CDL testing, leverage the impact of grant-funded enforcement operations, and closely track the use and condition of our vehicle fleet. In each example, we must continuously evaluate the use of Patrol resources to maximize their benefit to public safety.

I have had the opportunity to meet with Patrol employees in engagement meetings, troop meetings, and informal conversations. One topic consistently mentioned is workplace safety. We will continue to provide training opportunities and equipment that make all our jobs safer. Whether it is training for response to a building intruder, increasing firearms training opportunities, or providing communications or video recording equipment for employees who work at remote locations, we will continue to make improvements in workplace safety.

Recruiting and retaining Patrol employees continues to be a challenge. Recently, we formed the Recruiting and Community Outreach Division by combining the Office of Community Engagement and Outreach with the Career Recruitment Division. I believe this move will further strengthen our recruiting efforts and enhance our community outreach opportunities. While we have seen recent improvement, attracting minority applicants to a career with the Patrol requires the effort of our entire team. Each of you is part of this effort, and we must do better.

I greatly appreciate the words of encouragement and support I have received over the last several months and am thankful for the opportunity to serve as the superintendent. I look forward to working with everyone toward continuous improvement of our great organization.

Eric T. Olson

The official publication of the
Missouri State Highway Patrol

Celebrating Over 50 Years Of News

PATROL NEWS

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The Patrol News is published by the Public Information & Education Division of the Missouri State Highway Patrol in the interest of all active and retired personnel. (573) 526-6115

SHP-862

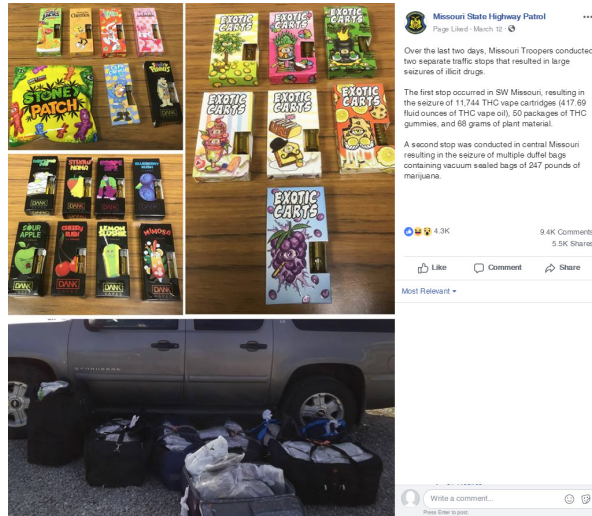
PATROL NEWS

May/June 2019

"Over 85 YEARS OF SERVICE & PROTECTION"

Volume 53 • Number 5

Social Media Snapshot



These two posts gained a lot of attention on social media. The post with photos of Bonnie and Clyde reached 124,470, was shared 987 times, and elicited 1,690 reactions on the Patrol's Facebook page. The other post described two separate traffic stops, which resulted in large seizures of illicit drugs in March. This post was shared 5,582 times, reached 1,019,475 people on social media, and garnered 4,336 reactions.



Cover

Clockwise: Account Clerk III Dianne Stricker accepted the Matilda "Tillie" Sonnen Civilian Of The Year Award from Col. Eric Olson. Tpr. David Johnson was chosen Benjamin Oliver Booth Officer Of The Year for 2018. He was accompanied by his wife, Olivia, and Col. Eric Olson in the photo. The Valor Award was presented to Tpr. Matthew Neely. Pictured with him is Col. Eric Olson and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Neely. Retired Captain Jack Merritt presented The MASTERS Public Service Award to Cpl. Jonathon Fariole, Troop I, whose wife, Jonny, accompanied him. The Troop E Color Guard provided the presentation and retirement of the colors.

Members Attending Active Shooter Training In 2019

By Public Info. Spec. III Cheryl D. Cobb, Q/PIED

The Training Division's instructors have the responsibility of not only preparing future troopers, but also managing the continuing law enforcement education of current troopers. Active shooter training is but one example of such training. Unfortunately, the phrase "active shooter" is not new. Most everyone has heard that phrase and understands what it means. The Patrol's recruit training has included active shooter scenarios for years and been using the current format since 2015.

In August 2018, 24 Patrol members attended the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center's Active Shooter Threat Instructor Training Program. The intent of this course was to standardize the Patrol's active threat response and develop consistent training. All members will complete this course prior to the end of 2019. The "2019 Active Threat Training" consists of both classroom instruction and practical exercises and takes place in each troop, providing the added benefit of familiar surroundings.

One of the first troops to begin the training was Troop D. A recently closed VA clinic in Mount Vernon, MO, became the site for the training, and the Mount Vernon Police Department, Lawrence County Sheriff's Office, and security personnel working at the site were invited to take part.

"I appreciate the efforts of all of the instructors, role players, and students who made this quality training a success," said Sgt. Todd A. Zacher, Troop D, who attended the training in April. "I have no doubt lives will be saved if, and when, this type of event occurs again in Missouri."

Troop D Tprs. Anthony J. Cook and Evan C. Macomber engage the active threat (portrayed by Tpr. Bryan P. O'Sullivan, Troop D) during a practical exercise.



The Mt. Vernon Police Department's assistant chief encounters Tpr. Blake DeHaan, Troop D, the role player running out.

Tpr. Gundy Shows Professionalism, Resourcefulness

By Public Info. Spec. III Cheryl D. Cobb, Q/PIED

Some weeks are just busier than others. Just ask Trooper Gary E. Gundy, Troop F. During the week of November 10-16, 2018, Tpr. Gundy provided excellent service and protection in four separate, intense situations. His being a living example of the Patrol's core values led to his being named Department of Public Safety's Sworn Employee of the Month for March 2019.

DPS Director Sandra K. Karsten presented the award during a special ceremony at Troop F Headquarters on March 27. Lieutenant Darewin L. Clardy, Troop F's acting commanding officer at the time, served as emcee for the event.

This busy week began while Tpr. Gundy was traveling on Interstate 70 while off duty. A vehicle traveling approximately 130 mph flew past him, made an unsafe lane change, and nearly struck Tpr. Gundy's personal vehicle. A short time later, Tpr. Gundy observed that same vehicle on the side of the road with its passenger door open. A male subject was over a female and appeared to be conducting chest compressions. Tpr. Gundy initially thought there was a medical emergency and stopped to assist. However, the man admitted to being intoxicated and was found to have been assaulting the female.

Tpr. Gundy said the man approached him saying, "Don't call the cops." However, 9-1-1 had already been called. The man attempted to flee, but Tpr. Gundy subdued him and restrained him until Columbia police officers arrived.

On November 14, 2018, Tpr. Gundy responded to Interstate 70 in Boone County. The Columbia Police Department and Columbia Fire Department were at the scene of a vehicle fire near Exit 131 and traffic was blocked. He self-dispatched to the area to assist. Tpr. Gundy's emergency lights were on and he displayed a "Slow" sign to warn motorists. However, a second traffic crash occurred between the initial traffic incident and Tpr. Gundy. A commercial motor vehicle struck two passenger

Col. Eric Olson (l) and DPS Director Sandra Karsten (r) stand with Tpr. Gary Gundy (center) after presenting him with the March 2019 DPS Employee of the Month award for sworn employees.



cars and another commercial motor vehicle. Then, a third commercial motor vehicle and another passenger vehicle were struck. Tpr. Gundy handled the initial investigation of this four-fatality crash, controlled the scene, and prepared it for the Major Crash Investigation Team.

The next day, on November 15, 2018, Tpr. Gundy heard the Columbia Police Department dispatch a report of a bank robbery by an armed suspect. Tpr. Gundy obtained a description of the suspect and responded to the area. Following his instincts, Tpr. Gundy eventually located a subject matching the description at a gas station in Columbia. He chased the subject on foot, caught him, and detained him until Columbia police officers arrived. The suspect was caught with a large amount of cash stolen from the bank.

As exciting as his week had been, it wasn't over quite yet. The next day, on November 16, 2018, a crash involving a passenger car and a commercial vehicle occurred on eastbound Interstate 70 at the 122-mile marker in Boone County. The commercial motor vehicle, which was hauling old car batteries, overturned blocking both lanes of eastbound Interstate 70. Tpr. Gundy responded and assumed a leadership role at the scene. He coordinated with first responders and the wrecker company, and requested assistance from the Department of Natural Resources because Perche Creek was nearby. He ensured that the crash scene was

handled safely and efficiently, so the interstate was reopened and traffic issues resolved quickly. Tpr. Gundy remained in contact with the Department of Natural Resources, the tow company, and the company contracted to clean up the hazardous materials, even when off duty.

After reading the nomination (with a little help from Tpr. Gundy), Lt. Clardy told those in attendance, "The week he had was an impressive week, even for a veteran officer."

Colonel Eric T. Olson congratulated Tpr. Gundy and presented him with a superintendent's challenge coin. "When I think of your work and especially this nomination, your professionalism and resourcefulness really stand out." He then smiled and said, "Gary is gathering quite a collection [of coins]," a reference to Tpr. Gundy having been DPS Employee of the Month in February 2017.

"It's not just Gary Gundy doing all that," said Tpr. Gundy. "All my zone mates were involved in the four-fatality crash ... I feel like I'm being recognized for things that involved a lot of other people."

"Gary is the career consummate professional. In each of these instances, his commitment to his job is what put him in the position to be so effective," said Lt. Clardy. "Each situation called for quick and decisive actions, and Gary responded immediately and professionally."

Congratulations, Tpr. Gundy!

PATROL HISTORY TRIVIA

THE MASTERS: 'SOMETHING RIGHT FOR THE RIGHT REASON'

By Mr. Chris Graham
Founder, The MASTERS

The Graham family's connection to the Highway Patrol goes back nearly 70 years.

Major Bud Jones taught my dad how to fly. On September 22, 1954, when the prisoners rioted and burned MSP, my dad, who was in his second term as state representative, was with Bud flying over the prison watching it burn. Hugh Waggoner, the longest serving superintendent, was a trooper in Lebanon first elevated to superintendent in 1945 by Governor Phil Donnelly. Colonel Waggoner and his wife, Johnnie, became close friends of my dad and mother. Their son, Hugh David, and I have been lifelong friends. In 1962, I was one of 16 teenage boys hired to help clear the land where GHQ is located. My lasting impression of that summer's labor was twice getting poison ivy over my entire body.

I have stayed in touch with Marva Lubker. Recently, she told me about being on a cruise through the Panama Canal, where she met a retired Washington, D.C., policeman. When he found out she was from Missouri, he asked her about The MASTERS. He had heard good things about the MSHP and The MASTERS. It was her great pleasure to share with him that The MASTERS was the dream of her late husband, Colonel Al Lubker.

So, it is that tonight, with the passing of the other founders, I am the only eye witness left to recount for you the details of the creation of The MASTERS.

When sharing her story with me, Marva said that for probably six months before he ever mentioned his idea to anyone else, Al would discuss the concept with her. Thereafter, he took his idea to his next-door neighbor's patio. (My parents were Al and Marva's next-door neighbors for 25 years.) There, through summer eve-

nings and into the fall 1978, Al and my dad began formulating the plan for The MASTERS.

Al would come over after dinner with his glass of lemonade, and he and my dad, whose preferred libation was bourbon and water, would brainstorm, conceptualize, and discuss the formation of this benevolent organization. On several occasions, I joined them during their patio discussions, while Marsha and our daughters were inside with my mother.

Al wanted to create an organization that would provide for the families of officers killed in the line of duty. Being familiar with *The Backstoppers*, which provides [for the families of] emergency personnel in the St. Louis area killed while on duty, we began to pattern The MASTERS after their model.

We decided to contact John Fabick, who at the time owned the world's largest Caterpillar dealership, and Fred Weber, whose company had built most of the highways in Eastern Missouri and Southern Illinois, with the idea of becoming co-founders. Both were long-time Patrol supporters we knew could help with fundraising in the St. Louis area.

Because Al always said that the Patrol was not just GHQ, but was in every county in the state, we decided two individuals from each of the troop areas and two individuals representing GHQ be selected to make up the board of directors. Initially, we determined that all services rendered in forming and operating The MASTERS were to be without cost. Furthermore, if anyone attempted to use a The MASTERS' membership to avoid a ticket, it meant automatic expulsion.

Being the junior partner in the firm of Graham and Graham, I was delegated with drafting all the legal

documents. I drafted the articles of incorporation and prepared the application which we sent to John and Fred for signatures. When the approved articles were delivered to our law office on January 10, 1979, my dad and I signed them and he drove me to the Secretary of State's office, where I presented the articles to be filed.

The next step was to obtain IRS tax exempt charitable status. The IRS required a two-year proposed budget. We had no idea what, if any, income we would have and what expenditures might be contingent upon a death in the line of duty. After doing some research, we agreed upon a proposed budget and filed the necessary Form 1023. At last, on June 28, 1979, the IRS exemption letter arrived! The MASTERS was in business!

Here, I want to pay tribute to our two secretaries of The MASTERS over the period of our 40-year history: Marilyn Schmutzler, our legal secretary, donated innumerable hours of her time preparing documents and establishing the guidelines for what Elaine Libla has so artfully done since assuming that role in 1987. These two ladies are to be commended, because they really were and are what makes The MASTERS work.

Let there be no mistake. The MASTERS was the vision of Al Lubker. In my opinion, it is the finest legacy any superintendent could ever have left.

My dad and I were honored we could help shepherd this great organization. When you do something right, for the right reasons, and it is successful, you feel a deep sense of satisfaction. So it is with The MASTERS. I'm grateful that 40 years later it is still successful. The outstanding reputation of The Missouri State Highway Patrol

Continued on the next page.

— TRIVIA

Continued from page 6.

is why The MASTERS has continued to thrive.

In closing, I ask that you covenant with me to pray faithfully for those on active duty with the Patrol. Pray that the Lord will keep His hedge of protection around all of those serving, so that at the end of their shifts they return safely to the arms of their families.

Thank you.

Editor's Note: A founder of The MASTERS, Mr. Chris Graham spoke at the 40th Annual Meeting of The MASTERS and 29th Annual Patrol Awards Ceremony event on April 13, 2019.

This article is a condensed version of his remarks. Thank you, Mr. Graham, for recounting the creation of The MASTERS!

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Tpr. Ashley E. Klempke, Troop F, for being named Missouri State Employee of the Month for March 2019. She was named DPS Employee of the Month for February 2019. (See story page 10, March/April 2019 *Patrol News*.) The award recognized her relentless investigation after locating two young girls walking on a highway.



Tpr. Ashley E. Klempke

Looking Back ... in the Patrol News

10 years ago

May/June 2009 — This issue announced that Lance Shockley, of Van Buren, MO, was found guilty of first degree murder in the death of Sergeant C. Dwayne Graham Jr.

20 years ago

June 1999 — This year's awards banquet honored 19 Patrol employees. A feature highlighted the Concerns Of Police Survivors sponsored camp for adolescents and young adults known as Boundary Waters. Its success led to COPS instituting a yearly Wilderness Experience for surviving children ages 15-21.

30 years ago

May 1989 — Troop B reported on several "oddities" in one article. Sergeant L.E. Murdock stopped a young lady for excessive speed. During the contact, her car caught fire and was destroyed right before his eyes. Corporal T.L. Clarke worked three injury crashes between 9:30 p.m. and 11:45 p.m. one Saturday night. Two of those were a husband and wife, who had the crashes two hours apart. Both of their vehicles were demolished.

40 years ago

June 1979 — Trooper W.G. Petrus stopped an "18-wheeler" for excessive speed. The truck driver asked if Tpr. Petrus would give him a break, because he'd been trucking for 31 years without a ticket. Tpr. Petrus replied, "Your license indicated you were born in 1936, and that makes you 43 years old, and if you have been trucking for 31 years, you started when you were 12 years old. So, this ticket makes it all even for all the times you drove when you were 12 years old."

50 years ago

May 1969 — Mr. Charles Bernskoetter wrote the centerfold feature about the Patrol's new computer system. Obtaining this system was a major communications upgrade. The IBM Series 360 model 40 was housed at General Headquarters. It included a central processing unit containing a card reader, card punch, two tape drives, four disk drives, a printer, and a controller to which the teletypes from all troop headquarters were connected. Installation was divided into three phases.

Colonel Eric T. Olson TAKES THE HELM

By Public Info. Spec. III Cheryl D. Cobb, Q/PIED

"Is everyone here?" Colonel Eric T. Olson looked around his new office at 1:58 p.m. on March 15, 2019. He introduced representatives from outside agencies and his family, and thanked them for their support before saying, "To my Patrol family I want to say I appreciate the team environment and the support you've given me over the past several months. Judge, if you're ready to do this, I know I am." Col. Olson was referring to the moment he would swear the Oath of Office for superintendent of the Missouri State Highway Patrol. Judge Patricia Breckenridge, Missouri Supreme Court, administered the Oath of Office and served as the official witness to this momentous occasion as Col. Olson signed the corresponding paperwork.

With quiet confidence, Col. Olson took the helm of the state's premiere law enforcement agency. After guiding the agency as interim superintendent since September 1, 2018, his new position's responsibilities are not unknown to him. Col. Olson is the 24th superintendent since the Patrol's creation.

After the paperwork was completed, Col. Olson addressed the command staff, division directors, administrative staff, and representa-



Judge Patricia Breckenridge, Missouri Supreme Court, administers the Oath of Office to Col. Eric Olson while Mrs. Ronda Olson holds the Bible.

tives from other agencies, "That's all I have. Unless there are any comments or objections, we will eat cake." He then walked around the room shaking hands and greeting everyone personally.

The colonel's wife, Ronda, and two sons, Lance and Garrett, attended the ceremony.

"I'm very proud of my father's accomplishments and his new position within the Missouri State Highway Patrol. It's been cool to watch my father grow over his career. He has been an inspiration to me," said Lance Olson, who is currently serving in the Missouri National Guard. "His qualities as

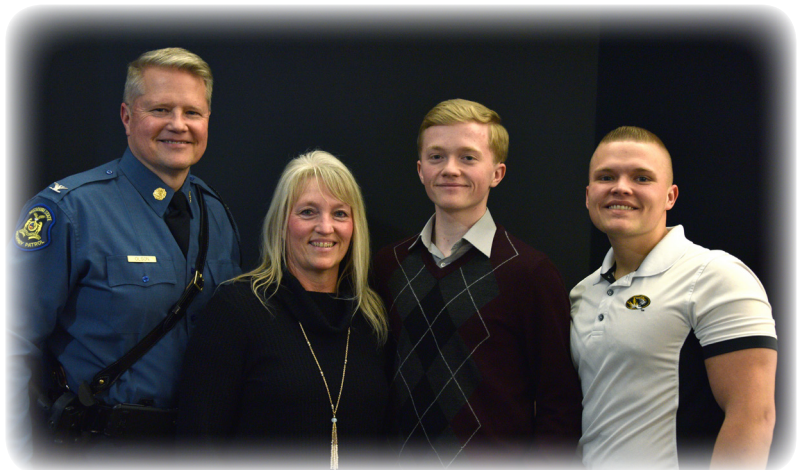
a father, keeping his faith, his leadership qualities ... I've learned these qualities from him and been able to adapt them to my military career. It was an honor to witness the ceremony today. I want to wish my father the best in all his future endeavors with the MSHP."

"I'm immensely proud of my dad with his new position at the Patrol," said the colonel's younger son, Garrett, a student at Truman State University in Kirksville, MO. "He has always shown me and his job endless support. I know he will continue to be great in his new position as colonel."

Congratulations, Col. Olson!!



Col. Eric Olson signs his Oath of Office with Judge Patricia Breckenridge, Missouri Supreme Court, serving as witness.



The Olsons took a family picture after the ceremony. From left to right are Col. Eric Olson, Mrs. Ronda Olson, Garrett Olson, and Lance Olson.

TROOP D RETIREE BREAKFAST ENJOYED BY MANY

By Sgt. Jason M. Pace

Good times were had by all at the Troop D retiree breakfast held March 20, 2019, at the Troop D Headquarters, in Springfield, MO. Many stories and experiences could be heard throughout the room as everyone enjoyed a great morning of fellowship. We are grateful for their years of contributions to the Patrol, as well as their service and dedication to the citizens of Missouri.



The room was filled with the sounds of great conversation.



Troop D retirees (seated l to r) Asst. Chief Oper. Bill Pollard, Cpl. Bill Crooks, Sgt. Steve Dorsey, Sgt. Mike Robertson, Capt. Randy Beydler, Capt. Jack Merritt, Capt. Ernie McCutchen, Sgt. Kent Casey, Tpr. Ed Spear, and Lt. Terry Moore; standing: Mr. Bill Tandy, Sgt. Lynn Windle, Sgt. Archie Dunn, Cpl. Espey Newman, Sgt. Rick Lindsay, Sgt. Art Myers, Sgt. Ron Hedrick, Lt. Mike Mulholland, Sgt. Clay Meyer, Sgt. Bob Proctor, Sgt. Jim Beckett, Tpr. Jim Burnett, Capt. Joe Swearingen, Sgt. Miles Parks, Sgt. John Cyrus, and Sgt. Jerry Walters.

Meet The MASTERS 2019-2020 Board Of Directors!



Pictured are (back row, l to r) Ret. Sgt. Russ Kennison, Ret. Capt. Jack L. Merritt, Dr. Mike Elders, Ret. Brigadier General/MSHP Major Michael B. Pace, Mr. Jack Pahlmann, Mr. Tom Drury, Mr. Doug Weible, Mr. Rob E. Dallmeyer III (vice president), and Mr. Jeff Bram; (front row, l to r) Ret. Lt. Sid Conklin, Ret. Capt. Johnnie B. Hoggatt (secretary), Mr. James F. Holstein, Mr. Douglas Mitchell, Ret. Col. James F. Keathley (president), Mrs. Judy Braschler (treasurer), Mrs. Elaine Libla (executive director), Ms. Lynn Wallis, Ret. Col. Fred M. Mills, Mr. Kevin Zoellner, and Sen. Doug Libla. (Not pictured: Dr. Wes Stricker.)

Banquet Provides Memorable Evening

By Public Info. Spec. III Cheryl D. Cobb, Q/PIED

This year's awards banquet took place at the Drury Plaza Hotel Cape Girardeau Conference Center. The Troop E Color Guard opened the evening and special guests Jayvon and his brother Jayvion Biles of Charleston, MO, delighted the crowd with their singing of the national anthem. These two young students' concluding harmonies brought applause and appreciation from their audience.

The evening had begun and it was time for the 40th The MASTERS' Dinner Meeting & 29th MSHP Awards Ceremony to commence. Occasional laughter joined the hum of voices and clink of silverware as Patrol employees and their guests strengthened friendships with members of The MASTERS. Approximately 280 people came to celebrate another year of service and protection.

This year's program included a special tribute to The MASTERS' cre-

ation 40 years ago. The last surviving founder Mr. Chris Graham spoke of Colonel Alvin R. Lubker's idea became the statewide support network we know today. (A condensed version of Mr. Graham's remarks are included in this issue as a Patrol History Trivia article.)

Missouri Governor Michael L. Parson served as keynote speaker, greeting everyone in his comfortable, jovial manner. He expressed his appreciation for what law enforcement officers do and recognized that being in law enforcement is never about the money. "It's about doing something for others they can't do for themselves. All of you sacrifice for everyone in the state of Missouri ... Serving people you'll never know, never meet. Doing the right thing."

Gov. Parson recognized the sacrifice of the 31 troopers who have died in the line of duty and encouraged

everyone to take care of one another, citing The MASTERS as a perfect example of that.

"Most of us get to live the American dream. The only reason we get to is because of what other people have done before us," said Gov. Parson. He then reminded those present that in his state of the state address, he talked about a 15-year-old boy who used 10, two-letter words as inspiration. "If it is to be, it is up to me." The governor closed by encouraging everyone to keep The MASTERS program going.

After the governor spoke, it was time to recognize 31 employees for their dedication and service in 2018. The MASTERS President Kevin Zoellner shared the nomination while retired Captain Jack Merritt presented The MASTERS Public Service Award to Corporal Jonathon D. Fariole, Troop

Continued on the next page.



Congratulations to all of the 2018 awards recipients!

Banquet

Continued from page 10.

I. Colonel Eric T. Olson then presented the Patrol awards with the assistance of Captain Jeff Vitale, Troop E.

CVO Supervisor Michelle A. Horn, Troop D, accepted the Superintendent's Award For Excellence In Public Service. It was the first year this award was presented. "It was truly an honor and privilege to attend," said CVO Sprv. Horn. "I am beyond grateful for the experience and the award I received. Until they actually attend the awards banquet, I don't think many people grasp how any of the events could easily happen to them. The award recipients truly were all at the right place at the right time to serve people. What a humbling experience to hear what each one had to face, and their reactions to those experiences." She said the most memorable part of the evening was the slide show honoring the Patrol's fallen officers and their ultimate sacrifice.

"I thought the awards banquet was very well put together," said Trooper David L. Johnson, Troop D, who accepted the Benjamin Oliver Booth Officer Of The Year Award for 2018. "It is a genuinely unique, humbling, and overall awesome experience. It is an honor to be there with all the other troopers who went above and beyond in their duties to serve our citizens and those visiting the state of Missouri. I was overwhelmed and honored to be the officer of the year, and will never forget the amount of pride I felt when receiving the award. I was very proud to share the moment with my wife and my parents, and I am always proud to be part of one of the best law enforcement agencies in the country. I hope to make it back to an awards banquet again in the future."

Congratulations to all our award recipients! Their actions truly are a credit to themselves and reflect the core values of the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

Below is a complete list of 2018 award recipients:

The MASTERS Public Service Award

Corporal Jonathon D. Fariole, Troop I

Superintendent's Award For Excellence In Public Service

Commercial Vehicle Officer Supervisor Michelle A. Horn, Troop D

Lifesaving Award

Sergeant Todd M. Barthelmass, Q/GD

Sergeant Amy K. Johnson, Q/GD

Sergeant Douglas M. McDaniel, Troop E

Corporal Samuel V. Buchheit, Q/GD

Corporal John E. Christensen, Q/GD

Corporal Joel E. Givens, Troop D

Corporal Jeremy R. McCurdy, Troop I

Corporal Shayne K. Talburt, Troop E

Corporal Jonathan T. Wilson, Troop E

Corporal John J. West, Troop E

Corporal Kyle D. Wilmont, Troop I

Trooper Daren C. Belardo, Troop A

Trooper Joseph V. BonDurant, Troop C

Trooper Travis L. Coffey, Troop D

Trooper Blake G. Groves, Troop C

Trooper Michael K. Halim, Troop C

Trooper Jordan A. Hilliard, Q/GD

Trooper Quentin H. Hooks, Troop C

Trooper Lee E. Hughes, Troop E

Trooper Parrish M. Lutz, Q/GD

Trooper Christian J. Mendez, Troop C

Trooper James R. Sauer, Q/GD

Trooper Daniel D. Wohler, Q/GD

Meritorious Award

Trooper Andrew B. Ward, Troop D

MVI I Scott M. LaHay, Troop C

Matilda "Tillie" Sonnen Civilian Of The Year

Account Clerk III Dianne P. Stricker, Troop C

Benjamin Oliver Booth Officer Of The Year

Trooper David L. Johnson, Troop D

Valor Award

Trooper Matthew W. Neely, Troop H

Purple Heart

Trooper Robert D. Crewse, Troop G

The MASTERS' Corner

Four Decades Later ... The Caring Continues

By Ret. Col. Fred M. Mills
Exec. Advisor, The MASTERS

The MASTERS' journey began in 1979 and those original values still hold true today, 40 years later. The vision of caring and compassion continues. The MASTERS began as the dream of Colonel Alvin R. Lubker, who saw the need to provide support for the family of a trooper who died in the line of duty. In most areas of our life, we have seen so many changes and evolutions occurring over the past 40 years. One thing remains as true then as it does today: the belief of Col. Lubker that helping the family left behind move forward is our moral responsibility. Never wavering from this commitment, The MASTERS has been there each time a family lost their loved one. While each story is different, these tragedies will always be remembered and forever honored.

Sadly, the Patrol has experienced 31 line-of-duty deaths. Twenty-one of these tragedies have occurred since The MASTERS formed. When these tragedies occur, The MASTERS directors meet with the family and Patrol personnel to determine how we can best serve the family. We realize each situation is different and determining what we can do to meet their needs is important to providing our support. By being there, we are hopeful our assistance helps the family to focus on "family" without the burden of financial concerns. This is the commitment we have worked to maintain. We have been told by troopers that while everyone hopes we are never needed, just knowing The MASTERS will be there for their family has given them comfort and added peace of mind.

Since The MASTERS began, the importance of supporting the family has never wavered. Over the years, some changes have occurred in the benefits The MASTERS provides to families; improvements have been made to enhance benefits to ensure they meet the needs of those we serve. An example of a change was in the educational benefit, which originally provided financial support for a four-year college degree (eight semesters). The importance of an education certainly is, and will remain, a priority. We began with the important premise the



Colonel Alvin R. Lubker

also vocational training schools. Vocational training opportunities are important and have shown to be an area of interest. Helping those we serve to be successful is our goal, and vocational training certainly provides rewarding and successful careers.

The MASTERS recognized the fact that when these tragedies occur, the surviving spouse, in addition to everything else they deal with, now shoulders the financial responsibility for the family. To help with this challenge, in addition to our other benefits,

we now provide the same educational benefits to the surviving spouse as we do the children. The only stipulation to continu-

ing to receive the educational benefit is that the individual must remain in good academic standing.

It is important that we remember Col. Lubker's dream and his legacy of caring that would have never happened without the unselfish support of so many. Our founders, Mr. Fred Weber Jr., Mr. Christopher Graham, Mr. Tom Graham, and Mr. John Fabick Sr.,

Continued on the next page.



children would be given the opportunity to receive a college education.

After several years of providing educational benefits, it was recognized that as important as a college education is, college isn't, and shouldn't be, the only choice made available. We realized that college simply isn't what necessarily meets the interest nor is it the appropriate choice, for everyone. The educational benefit has been expanded to include not only graduate and continuing education courses, but

— MASTERS'

Continued from page 12.

worked along with the troop directors to bring the dream to a reality. For their support and dedication, we are forever grateful. An indication of the dedication and longevity of our members is shown by the original Troop E Emeritus Director Mr. Ed Braschler and founder Mr. Christopher Graham. These gentlemen continue to serve with the 1,535 current The MASTERS' members. Our members can take pride in knowing their support does make a difference in the lives of those so deserving of our caring and concern.

While we always hope and pray the call never comes, you can be assured we are committed to the caring and compassion that began 40 years ago. The sacrifices of our fallen will never be forgotten.

To learn more about The MASTERS we encourage you to look at our website, which is always a work in progress. The website provides additional insight into a wonderful program of caring and concern. Please visit The MASTERS at www.themaster-smo.org.

“This course is worth the time commitment and starts a culture shift for the agency.”

— Major Vince S. Rice,
Q/ASB,

*when speaking about the Patrol's
Police Leadership — West Point
Model course.*

Sgt. Cooper Named 'Man Of The Year'

By Public Info. Spec. III Cheryl D. Cobb, Q/PIED

Congratulations are in order! Sergeant William T. Cooper, Q/DDCC, accepted the New Madrid Chamber of Commerce's "Man of the Year" award at a banquet on March 26, 2019.

Sgt. Cooper has supervised the Division of Drug and Crime Control's Troop E Criminal Investigative Unit since 2001. This criminal unit investigates all violent crimes such as assaults, rapes, kidnappings, homicides, and public corruption in the 13 counties that form Troop E. This unit works more death investigations than any other unit in the Missouri State Highway Patrol, and averages one death investigation a week in addition to the many other investigations they are assigned.

In 2002, Sgt. Cooper was instrumental in forming the Southeast Missouri Major Case Squad. He has been on the SEMO Major Case Squad board of directors and the Major Case Squad commander since its inception. For 12 years, he directed the SEMO Major Case Squad's homicide training, which was offered to all local law enforcement officers. He has served as an instructor at SEMO Law Enforcement Academy, teaching homicide investigations on numerous occasions, and serving as a guest instructor at other homicide trainings in Missouri and Arkansas. In 2010, Sgt. Cooper was appointed commander of a major case squad formed to investigate catastrophic events, such as a school shooting. This case squad is comprised of Pemiscot, Dunklin, Stoddard, and New Madrid counties' sheriff's offices, and includes each municipality inside each county.

Captain Chris Hensley, New Madrid County Sheriff's Office, nominated Sgt. Cooper for this recognition. Capt. Hensley's nomination included the following observations, "Sgt. Cooper's expertise has been a valuable asset to Southeast Missouri, and more importantly, the city of New Madrid. He has investigated and/or advised on all homicides since 1994. His phone number can be found in every police chief and sheriff's phone in Southeast Missouri. He has been requested by law enforcement agencies across the state of Missouri to advise on cold case homicide reviews. Most recently, the New Madrid Police Department contacted him and requested a cold case review of an old unsolved homicide." Sgt. Cooper then organized investigators from the SEMO Major Case Squad, criminal intelligence analysts from the Patrol's Violent Crime Support Unit, criminalists from the Patrol's Crime Laboratory Division, and additional troopers to review case facts, evidence, and crime scene photos to generate new leads.

"This great resource is not often noticed by the public, because he is always found behind the scenes organizing and directing the investigations," said Capt. Chris Hensley. "... I have worked with Bud for 20 years on various investigations. Throughout those years I watched him lead, teach, and inspire all of us to be better investigators."

Congratulations, Sgt. Cooper!



Sgt. William T. Cooper
Q/DDCC

Congratulations On Your Retirement!

Tim J. Hourihan
Sergeant
Q/GD

*Retired April 1, 2019.
15 years, 9 months
of dedicated service.*



Jane M. Hull
Special Asst.
Q/CIB

*Retired April 1, 2019.
18 years, two months
of dedicated service.*



David P. Perkins
Captain
Q/DED

*Retired April 1, 2019.
32 years, eight months
of dedicated service.*



E. Hope Copas
CITS II
Q/CJISD

*Retired May 1, 2019.
37 years, four months
of dedicated service.*



Joel R. Revelle
CVO II
Troop F

*Retired May 1, 2019.
35 years, two months
of dedicated service.*



Harold E. Smith
Sergeant
Q/GD

*Retried May 1, 2019.
25 years, eight months
of dedicated service.*



Retiree News

'Let Me Up There, I Can Land This Thing!'

By Kelly Steiner Wittenauer via Facebook

There's always that one story that gets you right in the heart and gives you all the feels. This [picture] is Army Air Corps Lieutenant Colonel Bud Jones (retired) who served as a fighter pilot in World War II. He is 97-years-old! I was privileged and honored to sit next to this young man and his daughter on the Honor Flight to Washington, D.C.

On his 115th flight mission, he received 25 holes in his airplane after making several passes on a train supplying supplies to the enemy. The bullet holes caused a leak in his oil tank, which shot out and covered his windshield. He was able to land his plane using only a quarter size inch hole in his field of view. After he was finished telling this story to me, all he had to say was, "... and that's when I fell in love with the P-47 Thunderbird!"

Later on our flight, there was some turbulence in the air. When I looked over at Bud and asked him what he thought about it, he turned to me deadpan with a slight grin. He looked right at the cockpit and said, "Let me up there, I can land this thing." #boom

This war hero has been awarded more medals than I can count. After his service, he went on to become a major with the Missouri State Highway Patrol, and retired after 30 years of service.

Later in the day, as I knelt beside him near the Lincoln Memorial, he quoted the Gettysburg Address to me from memory. Bud, you're 97-years-old, and I can't remember what I did yesterday. THESE are the individuals who are treated to a day of honor by the Greater St. Louis Honor Flight!



Freedom is not free. Being an American means something different to this man. If I'm honest, being an American means something different to me now after meeting him. We owe our freedom to people like my newest friend and hero, Bud!

Thank you for your service!

(Reprinted with permission.)

MSHP Retirees Luncheon: You're Invited!

All Retirees, Spouses, Surviving Spouses, & Guests Welcome!

Please join us from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday, August 16, 2019 at the First Baptist Church, 2 North Douglas, Lee's Summit, MO! (Lunch will be served at noon.) Take a little time for fun and fellowship! (Door prizes are appreciated.)

Our emcee this year is our own retired Captain Vince Ellis. Cost is \$13 per person. Make checks payable to Pat Spire and forward them to: Pat Spire, 3400 NW 51st Terrace, Blue Springs, MO 64015. Include your troop and years of service with the reservation, please!

For more information, contact one of your hosts:

Pat Spire
3400 NW 51st Terrace
Blue Springs, MO 64015
816-229-0154
pvspire@prodigy.net

Fount Foushee
7910 E 159th St
Belton, MO 64012
816-331-1994
wff7910@aol.com

Virginia Fenton
720 Sunset Drive
Independence, MO 64050
816-461-6898

Reservation Slip

Please return by August 1, 2019

Name: _____ Spouse/Guest: _____

Troop: _____ Years of Service: _____ Amount Enclosed: _____

Please mail checks to: Pat Spire, 3400 NW 51st Terrace, Blue Springs, MO 64015

Top Enforcers Recognized At Luncheon

By Public Info. Spec. III Cheryl D. Cobb, Q/PIED

Every day in every county of Missouri troopers are watching. Troopers read behavior and situations that prompt them to affect a traffic stop or check on someone's well-being. During boating season, Missourians have the added security of troopers patrolling the state's lakes and rivers. Sometimes, the read is obvious: The car or boat traveling in a careless manner or at an excessive rate of speed is going to get attention. Every trooper understands that a traffic stop, well-being check, or offer for assistance can become something more serious. Driving while intoxicated, felony, controlled substance, and boating while intoxicated arrests are the direct result of the heightened awareness every trooper has.

On April 8, 2019, Colonel Eric T. Olson presented the 2018 Top Enforcer Awards recognizing the officers that excelled in the areas of boating while intoxicated, driving while intoxicated, felony arrests, and controlled substance arrests. This work recognition luncheon took place at General Headquarters. Twenty-nine employees accepted awards at the event.

"Your work matters," said Col. Olson. "You've set a great example internally through your work ethic. You've set a great example externally and used

your resources to impact public safety. What you do matters, especially to the families affected by a DWI crash, a BWI crash, an opioid death. In 2017, 951 people died from opioid deaths. Traffic crashes claimed the lives of 922 people in 2018. Your hard work both deters and disrupts these trends."

"Thank you for your dedication and for being a living example of the Patrol's Core Values," said Col. Olson. "On behalf of the Patrol's command staff, I congratulate each of you on your accomplishment."

Listed below are the Top Enforcers for 2018.

Top 10 Enforcer — DWI

Tpr. Aaron A. Engelhart, Troop A
Tpr. Brodie P. Waaso, Troop C
Tpr. Thomas W. Meyer, Troop D
Cpl. Bruce E. Thoman, Troop A
Tpr. Kenneth R. Bechaud, Troop C
Sgt. Shane R. Monk, Troop D
Tpr. Ryan L. Hutton, Q/TND
Tpr. Travis L. Coffey, Troop D
Tpr. Esteban M. Reynoso, Troop C
Tpr. Grant A. Ayres, Troop F

Top Enforcer — BWI

Tpr. Brian J. Geier, Troop F
Tpr. Shannon D. Bledsoe, Troop F

Top 10 Enforcer Felony Arrests

Cpl. John J. West, Troop E
Tpr. Nathan D. Wallace, Troop F
Tpr. Ryan J. Windham, Troop E

Tpr. David L. Johnson, Troop D
Tpr. Matthew W. Neely, Troop H
Tpr. Daniel J. Dalton, Troop F
Tpr. Joshua L. Dunmire, Troop I
Tpr. Emily M. Westmoreland, Troop E
Tpr. Aaron A. Engelhart, Troop A
Tpr. Timothy C. Fick, Troop F
Tpr. Samuel R. Glass, Troop D

Top 10 Enforcer Controlled Substance Arrests

Tpr. Ryan J. Windham, Troop E
Tpr. David L. Johnson, Troop D
Tpr. Aaron W. Ferguson, Troop A
Sgt. Lance D. DeClue, Troop I
Tpr. Chris R. Kottwitz, Troop B
Tpr. Nolan A. Bax, Troop F
Cpl. John J. West, Troop E
Cpl. Travis L. Peters, Troop C
Tpr. Matthew G. Kettenbach, Troop F
Tpr. Emilio J. Villanueva, Troop A



Congratulations to the 2018 Top Enforcers, and thank you for making our roadways and waterways safer!

SKILLSUSA RETURNS TO GENERAL HEADQUARTERS

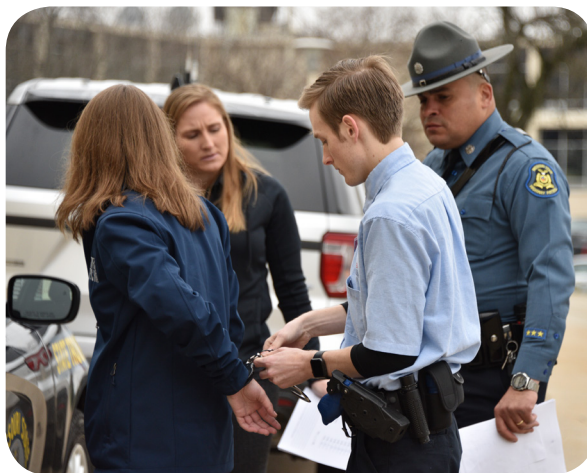
By Public Info. Spec. III Cheryl D. Cobb, Q/PIED

On April 5, 2019, the Patrol hosted SkillsUSA state finals, welcoming 130 students representing eight schools. Twenty-three employees from seven components, two Jefferson City Police Department officers, and one deputy from the Cole County Sheriff's Department served as role players, judges, and organizers. The Patrol provided four crime scenes and six different law enforcement scenarios in the competition. Students responded to each scenario as if they were law enforcement officers, and handled investigations, conducted interviews, and created reports. The scenarios included a mock traffic crash, domestic violence incident, Terry stop, warrant arrest, report of a dead body, etc.

"SkillsUSA is a great opportunity for the Highway Patrol to help educate and reinforce self-confidence, leadership, and teamwork in high school age youth who have shown interest in a law enforcement career," said Colonel Eric T. Olson, Q/SO. "We hope the positive experience and interaction with Patrol employees leads to these young men and women looking to the Patrol for their career."

SkillsUSA provides educational experiences in a wide variety of public career and technical programs.

The program is focused on developing leadership, teamwork, citizenship, and character in participating students. While the Patrol is providing the law enforcement competition, State Technical College of Missouri in Linn, MO, hosts the remaining fields of study.



Tpr. Antonio Sandoval Jr. and Tpr. Ashley Klempe serve as judges for these two students competing in Skills USA.

Thank you and high fives to the following employees who provided an outstanding SkillsUSA experience:

Capt. John J. Hotz, Q/PIED
Capt. Ben C. Jones, Q/RCOD
Lt. Collin M. Stosberg, Q/PIED
Sgt. Shawn M. Griggs, Q/DDCC
Sgt. Scott E. Mertens, Q/DDCC
Sgt. Jeffery L. Van Tress, Q/DDCC
Sgt. Darrin R. Haslag, Q/DDCC
Sgt. Jeffery D. Johnson, Q/DDCC
Sgt. David B. Haggett, Q/RCOD
Cpl. Rich Stewart, Q/RCOD
Cpl. Jeremy R. McCurdy, Troop I
Cpl. Cary F. Porter, Troop B

Cpl. Nathan J. Shinkle, Q/DDCC
Tpr. Ashley E. Klempe, Troop F
Tpr. Douglas W. Pfeifer, Troop I
Tpr. Elyse J. Ruckebrod, Troop B
Tpr. Antonio Sandoval Jr., Q/RCOD
Tpr. Steven J. Washabaugh, Troop F
Criminalist I Kathryn J. Vannoy, Q/CLD
Criminalist II Caitlin N. Hahn, Q/CLD
Criminalist III Janet L. Davis, Q/CLD
Criminalist I Sarah R. Schiffer, Q/CLD
Ret. Sgt. Kevin Haywood, Q/RCOD

Death

Arnold E. Moreland



Arnold E. Moreland, 83, of Holts Summit, MO, died Wednesday, March 13, 2019, at Fulton Nursing and Rehab in Fulton, MO. He attended school in Vienna, MO, and served proudly in the U.S. Army. He was stationed in Germany from 1958-1960. Arnold began his career with the Missouri State Highway Patrol in May 1953, as a teletype operator. In October 1960, he became a driver examiner in Troop F. In January 1966, Arnold went through the Law Enforcement Academy as a member of the 30th Recruit Class. He worked as a road trooper, MVI officer, desk officer, and DE officer before retiring as a sergeant in May 1990. Arnold is survived by his wife, Ann, a daughter, a son, two grandchildren, one great-grandchild, eight step-grandchildren, seven step-great-grandchildren, and many other family members. He was preceded in death by his parents, brother, sister, and infant brother. Memorials may be made to the Alzheimer's Association. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Moreland family. To learn more about Arnold, visit the Slater-Millard Family Funeral Chapel website at <https://www.millardfamilychapels.com/>.

Deaths

Dennis A. Overbey



Dennis Overbey, 64, of Poplar Bluff, MO, died Thursday, March 14, 2019, in Poplar Bluff, MO. Dennis graduated from Sikeston High School in Sikeston, MO, in 1972. He worked for Ferrell Excavations before joining the Missouri State Highway Patrol. Dennis was a member of the 50th Recruit Class, and served from July 1979 until he retired as a sergeant in June 2013. During his tenure, he was a road trooper, polygraphist, and criminal investigator. Dennis is survived by his wife, Rosemary, a son, a daughter, two siblings, five grandchildren, additional family members, friends, and his treasured John Deere mower. He was preceded in death by his parents, in-laws, and his Great Dane, Java D. Rose. Memorials may be made to a fund set up for his grandchildren at First Midwest Bank (Benefit Fund For Dennis Overbey). The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Overbey family. To learn more about Dennis, visit the Moore Funeral Service website at <https://moorefuneralservice.com/obit-2/dennis-overbey/135/>.

Lawrence M. Cripps



Lawrence M. Cripps, 79 of Nevada, MO, died Saturday, March 30, 2019, at Nevada Regional Medical Center following a life dedicated to the faithful service of mankind. After high school, he served in the United States Navy for four years. He later joined the Air Force Reserves, and retired as a chief master sergeant. Lawrence worked for the Nevada Police Department before joining the Missouri State Highway Patrol as a driver license examiner in July 1965. He retired as a driver examiner supervisor after almost 32 years of dedicated service. Lawrence also pastored the Methodist Churches at Horton, MO, and Metz, MO. Lawrence was preceded in death by his parents, first wife, and a son. He is survived by his wife, Gina, of the home, son, stepson, stepdaughter, additional family members, and friends.

Memorials may be made to Masonic Home of Missouri, Disabled American Veterans, or Vernon County Cancer Relief in care of the Ferry Funeral Home. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Cripps family. For more information about Lawrence, visit the Ferry Funeral Home website at <https://www.ferry-funeralhome.com/notices/Lawrence-Cripps>.

Rita K. Belt



Rita K. Belt, 65, of Holts Summit, MO, died Wednesday, April 3, 2019, at St. Mary's Medical Center. She worked as a cook in the Missouri State Highway Patrol's Training Division from 2005 to 2013. Rita is survived by her husband, Kenneth, two children, nine grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, four siblings, and other family members and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, a

“Face the demands of life voluntarily. Respond to a challenge instead of bracing for catastrophe.”

— Professor Jordan Peterson,
University of Toronto, Canada

Deaths

grandson, a great-grandson, and nine siblings. Expressions of sympathy may be made to The Family of Rita Belt c/o Houser-Millard Funeral Directors. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Belt family. To learn more about Rita, visit the *News Tribune* website at <http://www.news-tribune.com/obits/2019/apr/05/rita-belt/74584/>.

Larry G. Fullerton



Larry G. Fullerton, 69, died Wednesday, April 10, 2019, at Cox Hospital in Springfield, MO. Larry worked for the Missouri State Highway Patrol as a commercial vehicle officer for 30 years, and served in the National Guard for 20 years. He is survived by his two sons, five grandchildren, and one sister. Memorial contributions may be made to Fairview Christian Church in care of the Ulmer Funeral Home in Carthage, MO. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Fullerton family. To learn more about Larry, visit the *Joplin Globe* website at <http://obituaries.joplinglobe.com/obituary/larry-fullerton-1949-2019-1074016173>.

~ Thank You ~

We would like to thank everyone for the memorials, cards, and expressions of sympathy after the death of my son-in-law, Gary Dunkin.

Ret. CVO II Rodger O. Thompson & family



My family and I would like to express our sincere thanks to everyone for the kindness shown to us after the death of my husband, Chuck Land. We truly appreciated all your prayers, cards, and other forms of condolences. We also want to thank those who took the time out of their busy schedules to attend the visitation and funeral. God bless and thank you all.

DE Sprv. Lisa D. Land Troop D



On behalf of our family we thank you for all the prayers, cards, and letters we have received after the death of our father and grandfather, Bill Jones. We also appreciated all the retired and current Patrol employees who attended the funeral visitation to lend their support, along with the troopers who assisted with traffic direction on the funeral route. May God bless you.

*Ret. Capt. Brad W. Jones
Cpl. David A. Jones, Troop A*



Thank you all for your thoughts, words, and prayers upon the passing of my mother-in-law. My wife and family were not only appreciative, but also moved by the many expressions of sympathy we received.

*God bless you all,
Lt. Rick E. Buttram, Q/RDD, & family*

Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy goes to the following personnel who have lost a member of their family:

Ret. Capt. Jim G. Watson - wife
Ret. Senior Chief CVO Debra Bax Boyce - sister
Cpl. Dennis D. Mathes (A) - father
Tpr. Reese E. Douthett (D) - mother
Tpr. Rick R. Dowd (F) - father-in-law
Chief Comm. Oper. Rocky L. Ponder (Q/CommD) - mother
DE Sprv. Lisa D. Land (D) - husband
Sgt. Brian N. Harrell (Q/GD) - mother
Tpr. Kendall G. Hampton (E) - mother
Sgt. Tim G. Pulley (Q/FOB) - mother

Ret. Capt. Bradley W. Jones - father
Cpl. Dave A. Jones (A) - grandfather
MVI Sprv. Dwight L. Christian (F) - father
Lt. Rick E. Buttram (Q/RDD) - mother-in-law
Tpr. Kelly M. Hoover (B) - grandfather
Sgt. Dennis W. Rainey (E) - father-in-law
DE III Mallory A. Hansen (D) - grandfather
Comm. Oper. II Amy M. Fly (D) - grandmother
Tpr. Darwin R. Hukill (D) - mother
Tpr. Jeremy W. Miller (A) - mother

Recruiting: 1-800-796-7000 • Email: mshppied@mshp.dps.mo.gov • Home Page: <http://www.mshp.dps.mo.gov>  www.facebook.com/motrooper
 @MSHPTrooperGHQ @MSHPTrooperA @MSHPTrooperB @MSHPTrooperC @MSHPTrooperD @MSHPTrooperE @MSHPTrooperF
@MSHPTrooperG @MSHPTrooperH @MSHPTrooperI @MSHPTrooperDDCC @MSHPColonel @MSHPRecruiting

Employee Honored For Resourcefulness

By Public Info. Spec. III Cheryl D. Cobb, Q/PIED

"Taxpayers want government to be well managed and costs to be kept down," said DPS Director Sandra K. Karsten. "That's what Kasey has been doing at the Patrol's Academy cafeteria."

When she said that, DPS Dir. Karsten was presenting Food Service Manager Kasey L. Green with the Nonsworn DPS Employee of the Month Award for April 2019.

"Thank you," DPS Dir. Karsten told Kasey. "You have considered dietary needs for many people you know are coming to your kitchen. That's not easy and requires an amount of flexibility."

When DPS Dir. Karsten presented his certificate to him, she said, "On behalf of DPS, I am pleased to present you with your certificate, which signifies your eight hours administrative leave."

Kasey laughed and quipped, "This should be bigger, like a check."

He then thanked everyone, "I do appreciate the recognition and the DPS staff who attended. I'm a simple man. I just do what I do."

Coworkers gathered in Academy Classroom E to recognize Kasey, who has implemented a tracking system for the cafeteria, reduced food expenditures, and improved the menu with healthier choices. Kasey became the food service manager in 2016, and reduced expenditures 32% percent in the two years since.

Major Vince S. Rice, Q/ASB, read the nomination, which included praise for how Kasey constantly looks for more efficient and effective ways of doing business. Kasey also makes the effort to know his employees' strengths and weaknesses, and provides training



Pictured left to right are Major Vince Rice, DPS Dir. Sandra Karsten, Food Service Manager Kasey Green, Capt. Jerry West, and Col. Eric Olson.

to improve their knowledge, skills, and abilities.

"Many people from outside our agency eat in the cafeteria," said Colonel Eric T. Olson, "and that's the only impression they have of us." He went on to say the agency receives positive feedback on both the food and the professionalism of our employees. He presented Kasey with a superintendent's challenge coin while highlighting Kasey's resourcefulness.

Congratulations, Kasey!